

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 OES-03 PM-04

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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6254

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USERDA GERMANTOWN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L IAEA VIENNA 6942

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: IAEA, TECH, PARM

SUBJ: IAEA STUDY OF REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTERS

REF: IAEA VIENNA 6664

1. MISSION HAS DISCUSSED SUBJECT STUDY WITH D.A.V. FISCHER (DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL LIAISON, IAEA). FISCHER PROVIDED INFORMAL OUTLINE (SEPTEL) OF "AREAS IN WHICH EARLY STUDIES COULD BE UNDERTAKEN." THIS OUTLINE, WHICH INCLUDES TECHNICAL, FINANCING, LEGAL, POLITICAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, AND SAFEGUARDS AREAS, WAS PRESENTED BY MECKONI AT RECENT INTERNAL AGENCY MEETING. FISCHER SAID HE WAS ASKED IF HIS DIVISION COULD UNDERTAKE FINANCING, POLITICAL, AND ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS, AND INDICATED THAT HE HAS RESPONDED THAT EXTERNAL LIAISON AND LEGAL DIVISIONS MIGHT TOGETHER LOOK AT POLITICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS, BUT THAT KRYMM, OF DIVISION OF NUCLEAR POWER AND REACTORS, WOULD BE BETTER ABLE TO HANDLE FINANCING ASPECTS.

2. MECKONI OUTLINE ALSO NOTES THAT "IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO DEFINE THE ROLE THAT IAEA COULD PLAY TOWARDS
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INITIATING COORDINATED EFFORT BY THE STATES CONCERNED."

THIS IS THE POSSIBILITY RAISED BY ROMETSCH (REFTEL, PARA 10). MISOFFS DISCUSSED WITH FISCHER THE POSSIBILITIES OF TAKING THE FIRST STEP TAT THE SEPTEMBER GENERAL CONFERENCE, I.E., A SUGGESTION IN DG'S SPEECH THAT INTERESTED STATES TAKE OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED BY PRESENCE OF HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATIONS, AND DISCUSS SETTING UP COORDINATED STUDY GROUPS. FISCHER SAID THERE WAS ALREADY CONSIDERABLE MATERIAL IN DG'S SPEECH ON REGIONAL FUEL CYCLE CENTERS, AND SOMETHING ALONG LINES OF SUGGESTING GROUPS OF STATES START DISCUSSIONS; HE WILL REVIEW THAT MATERIAL IN LIGHT OF DISCUSSION WITH MISOFFS. HE LEANED HEAVILY, HOWEVER, TO IDEAA OF HELPING BEHIND THE SCENES TO SET UP INFORMAL LUNCHES DURING GENERAL CONFERENCE OF REPS FROM KEY COUNTRIES IN CERTAIN REGIONS. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT MECKONI WILL PRESENT STATUS REPORT ON PROJECT DURING SCIENTIFIC SESSION AT GENERAL CONFERENCE. FISCHER IS WELL AWARE OF NEED FOR SOME AGENCY PERSONNEL TO TAKE FULL-TIME ACTIVE INTEREST IN REGIONAL FUEL CYCLE CENTER QUESTIONS ON ORGANIZATIONAL, LEGAL AND FINANCIAL SIDE, AND IS CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING IN OUTSIDE EXPERT FOR THIS PURPOSE.

3. MISSION IS ENCOURAGED BY MICKONI'S ACCEPTANCE OF DESIRABILITY OF PARALLEL, AND EARLY, SUTDIES ON BROADER ASPECTS OF REGIONAL FUEL CYCLE CENTERS, BY INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER DIVISIONS OF AGENCY, AND BY AGENCY ACCEPTANCE OF IDEA OF PLAYING ROLE IN INITIATING COORDINATED STATES EFFORTS. WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHAT OUTSIDE HELP, E.G., IN FORM OF CONSULTANTS, THESE POLITICAL, LEGAL, FINCANCING, AND ORGANIZATIONAL STUDIES WILL REQUIRE. WE WILL DISCUSS THIS FURTHER WITH AGENCY.

4. MISOFFS HAVE DISCUSSED THE AGENCY'S REGIONAL STUDIES WITH MCDONALD OF AUSTRALIAN MISSION. MCDONALD SAID THERE IS CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN CANBERRA IN SUBJECT. HE WILL OBTAIN COPY OF AGENCY'S LETTER ASKING FOR ASSISTANCE, IN SUTDIES, AND WILL RAISE WITH CANBERRA POSSIBILITY OF AUSTRIALIAN INVOLVEMENT IN STUDIES AND IN INITIATING CONSIDERATION BY PACIFIC REGIONAL GROUPING.

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5. MOST RECENTLY, MISOFFS ALSO REVEIWED AGENCY PLANS WITH MECKONI, WHO AGREES ON DESIRABILITY OF MOVING AHEAD ASAP WITH STUDIES OF ORGANIZATION, LEGAL, AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS IN PARALLEL WITH ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES, AND HE IS ALSO KEENLY AWARE OF NEED FOR AGENCY TO PLAY AN APPROPRIATE CALAYTIC ROLE IN BRINGING TOGETHER GROUPS OF INTERESTED STATES. MECKONI INFORMED US THAT LEGAL DIVISION WILL ASSIGN JACK PENDER TO WORK ON LEGAL

ASPECTS, AND THAT JANIS HUMPHREY IN EXTERNAL LIAISON HAS ALREADY BEEN EXAMINING SOME ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS. (COMMENT: THIS IS HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT, BUT WE ARE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED AT INCREASINGLY TOP-HEAVY LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION OF U.S. NATIONALS ON AGENCY STAFF BECOMING INVOLVED IN THESE STUDIES. WE MAY DISCUSS THIS STAFFING QUESTION FURTHER WITH FISCHER. END COMMENT.)

6. WE UNDERSTAND THAT LETTER REQUESTING CONSULTING HELP (PARAS 2 AND 3, REFTEL) HAS BEEN DELAYED, PENDING RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS BY POLLIART WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS (POLLIART IS ON LEAVE IN FRANCE AND APPARENTLY HAS SOME FIRM IDEAS AS TO SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS THAT FRENCH MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE).

7. RE INFORMAL AGENCY REQUEST FOR EXPERTS (PAR 4 REFTEL), MECKONI INFORMED US THAT SIMILAR INFORMAL REQUESTS HAD BEEN MADE TO FRG AND FRANCE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT WEEK OF AUGUST 18-22 IS NO LONGER PRACTICAL, BUT HOPES THAT EXPERTS COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WEEK OF AUGUST 25-29. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE SOME INDICATION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT US WILL BE IN POSITION PROVIDE EXPERTS REQUESTED, AND IF SO, PROSPECTS OF MEETING AUGUST 25-29 DATES. LABOWITZ

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